Pilots in inebriated condition

727. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the pilots operating in domestic sector were found in inebriated condition just before flying the aircrafts;

(b) if so, the number of such cases that were detected in the last one year;

(c) the action taken against these pilots; and

(d) in what manner the norms have been made stringent so as to avoid the recurrence of such kind of incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the last year, 15 pilots tested positive for alcohol during pre-flight medical checks by the airlines.

(c) The concerned airlines have taken action against erring pilots which include de-rostering the involved crew for a period varying from 1-3 months and imposition of financial penalty.

(d) Surprise pre-flight medical checks are carried out in presence of officers of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for pilots and cabin crew. Also the system of pre-flight medical check is examined by DGCA officers during safety audit and surveillance checks.

Airports in the North Eastern Region

728. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of airports in the country as on 31st January, 2007, State-wise and airport-wise;

(b) the details of airports to be developed and modernized in the country, particularly in the North Eastern Region including Sikkim; and

(c) the details of funds allocated, released and actually utilized for the same during the last three years, State-wise?